

**County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health**  
**OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

Thursday, February 27, 2014

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and  
not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

**Larry Gasco, Chairman, Presiding**

**1. Call to Order – Larry Gasco**

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call by Canetana Hurd
- Attendance recorded as follows:  
Absent excused: Jerry Lubin, Hayward McNeill, Herman DeBose, Judy Cooperberg, and Phillip Chen
- County Service Recognition – Dr. Southard presented Terry Lewis, Executive Director, Mental Health Commission with a clock in recognition of 35 years of County service. Congratulations Terry.
- Meeting Format Change – Chairman Gasco announced that Public Comments submitted that contain announcements for upcoming events/conferences will be read by Commission staff before subject matter comments. The change will allow time for SAAC and community reports to be heard.
- Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Huffman motioned for approval of January 2014 minutes of the Commission.

Commissioner Gilberg seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

Chairman Gasco stated, the motion unanimously passes to approve the minutes with all members present and voting.

**2. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco**

- **Executive Committee Report** – Commissioner Huffman reported on the Executive Committee meeting held February 13. She discussed the following:
  - Annual Retreat Date – Date will be finalized at the March 13 Executive Committee meeting.
  - Highlights of AB 109 expansion discussed by Drs. Stephen Shea and Michael Maloney from Jail Mental Health
  - Gathering input from the Commission for the department's BIA (Business Impact Analysis) continuity plan.
  - Following items to be placed on the March agenda
    - a) Finalize date for annual retreat
    - b) Develop questions for Drs. Shea and Maloney to address at the full meeting

**ACTION** – Obtain summary of Florida meeting from Dr. Shea

**ACTION** – Schedule Cathy Warner to report on the status of the wellness centers to the full Commission.

- **MHC/SAAC Chairs Report** – The meeting was held February 11 and all Service Areas were present. The group received an update from Dr. Debbie Innes-Gomberg on MHSA 3-year implementation plan. Terry Lewis stated it is important for the SAAC to be a part of the implementation process and to be equally prepared to identify service gaps. SAACs feel they have a voice now. SAACs agreed to review gaps all year long to better prepare for future implementation input.
- **December 2014 Offsite** – San Gabriel Valley or Long Beach was suggested for the 2014 December offsite meeting. Chairman Gasco asked Commissioners to look in the area for possible venues to conduct the meeting.
- **Commission Vacancies** – Sharon Lyle continues to follow up on finalizing her appointment as Commissioner representing the Fourth District. Commissioner Gasco asked Ms. Austria for her assistance in reaching out to the Health Deputies regarding the Commission vacancies.  
**ACTION** – Ms. Austria stated to send her a request via email so she can forward to Health Deputies.

3. **Public Comments**

**William Legere** – The County receives millions of dollars from the state so LA County should hire more clients in various capacities other than Peer Advocates.

**John M. Glover** – I encourage you to support and advocate for any and all efforts to meet the unmet need in Service Area 1, for an expansion of DMH contracted peer driven centers, such as Mental Health America's Discovery resource Center located in Palmdale. Intensive level MHSA programming such as the FSP and FCCS program don't address the need for lower-level of core community-based support that can provide both or ongoing assistance, improved community integration, and a decrease in recidivism back into more intensive and costly MHSA programming.

**Lolita S. Namocatcat** – How do you see the future of the MHSA housing infrastructures? Haven't you thought of infestation? Don't we need building maintenance?

**Sawako Nitao** – Announcement: Asian Cultural Training on March 27 from 9:30 – 3 pm. Limited to a capacity of 100 so register early.

4. **DMH Report – Marvin J. Southard, DSW, Director of Mental Health**

**Budget** - Realignment and mitigation create challenges for the upcoming fiscal year. Realignment – flat revenue due the labor contract settlement, IMD ancillary, and match in Medicaid increased; mitigation – federal resources from indigents increased and implementation of HWLA receivable is long term.

SB 82 is good; DMH will receive \$9 million (after board approval) to hire more workers. Provisions of SB 82 are transformative. Funding to create urgent care facilities and more crisis residential beds is \$40 million but this is

one time dollars. DMH has to develop proposals to finance transformative projects estimated to be \$17.1 million. Proposals are:

- a) Use dollars sitting in the MHSA CCS fund. Submit a proposal to the board to use Laura's Law funding because it is not operational yet.
- b) Approach the American Hospital Association to donate funds to be placed in an account for emergency room bed crisis. The AHA expressed interest in emergency room beds.
- c) Ask County CEO to use County General Funds

**Justice Issues** – The pre-booking diversion plan was discussed with the Los Angeles County DA. The DA expressed interested in the department providing triage assessment to inmates before they are booked. Dr. Southard further discussed the Sheriff's \$30 million interim plan. The plan allows DMH to provide the best possible mental health services to inmates during reconstruction and reorganization of the jail facilities.

**Legislative Report** – Susan Rajlal, Legislative Analyst  
Ms. Rajlal reported that most of the bills are on watch status. She provided a document "LACDMH 2014 CA Bill Tracker (attached) containing information on mental health legislation.

## 5. **Commissioners' Reports**

**Commissioner Delores Huffman** reported that the BLACCC (Black Los Angeles County Client Coalition) conference was well attended, workshops covered community involvement with client panelists.

**Commissioner Barry Perrou** announced the Stepping In Conference save the date flyer will be coming soon. Dealing with the mental health population and hiding weapons from 5150 clients are topics that will be discussed at the conference.

**ACTION** – Commissioner Perrou asked that the Commission send a letter to John Scott, Interim LA County Sheriff, regarding MET.

**Commissioner Victoria Sofro** announced the Employment and Education Division is capturing data. Commissioner Sofro complimented the staff, Dr. Maria Funk, Lise Ruiz, Wendy Tovey, Kalene Gilbert, and Kecia Coker for capturing numbers which were really not doing before. Of the ones we were tracking, 25% of the members are working.

The Connections for Life conference is April 2, 2014 at the Endowment Center.

**Commissioner Frank Baron** reported that he was a guest speaker for Jim Price's psychology and law class.

6. **SAAC/Community Reports/LACCC**

**SAAC 1** – Sonia Hicks, Co-Chair thanked Dr. Southard for the information on SB 82 and discussed the following topics from the SAAC meeting:

- Gaps in the service area
- WET discussed expanding programs in the service area
- SAAC discussed strengthening membership roles with responsibilities, and added executive committee members.

**SAAC 2** – Barbara Wilson announced the following from the last meeting:

- Changed meeting places
- Need housing especially small board and care homes
- 3-year plan needs more input from families
- Developing plans and strategies to work with law enforcement
- Commissioner Judy Cooperberg will speak at March meeting on the law enforcement project in her service area
- Similar to the situation that occurred in SAAC 8 report, SAAC 2 was faced with a decompensation crisis at the community meeting. The incident was resolved by DMH clinical staff.

**SAAC 3** – William Legere reported the following from the SAAC meeting:

- Presentations from TAY and Children
- 3-year MHSA Plan
- BLACCC put in a lot of work toward a successful conference
- New meeting location – Enki in El Monte

**SAAC 4** – Mark Karmatz reported:

- Debbie Innes-Gomberg and a representative from Adult Services spoke at the last meeting.

**SAAC 5** – Celinda Jungheim reported on the following:

- Working on the 3-year MHSA plan helped the SAAC decide how to implement goals by forming smaller groups
- Two people were elected on the SAAC Executive Committee
- In March SAAC will start to invite special presentations, town hall events in May, and candidates to replace Supervisor Yaroslavsky.

**SAAC 6** – Commissioner Huffman reported:

- SAAC is working on the 3-year plan.
- Closing gaps in the service area by; SAAC doing more, consumer participation in all levels of service, and focus on African-American consumers in the diverse community.

**SAAC 8 – John Czernek** reported that at the last meeting a member decompensated and was escorted in handcuffs from the meeting room. The clinical staff present did nothing to address the situation, and it was disturbing to others.

Mr. Czernek continued to report on the SAAC meeting:

- Focus groups to address the MHSA 3-year planning
- Topics planned for FY May is Mental Health month

**Los Angeles County Client Coalition (LACCC)** – Ruth Hugh, Co-Chair reported:

- Planning 3<sup>rd</sup> annual integrating physical and mental health on June 23 at the Endowment Center. LACCC is looking for client presenters.
- LACCC meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 11 am in DMH Headquarters on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

7. **Meeting adjourned**

8. **NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, March 27, 2014  
11 am – 1:30 pm  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Room 739  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Minutes prepared by Canetana Hurd

<b>Mental Health Legislation</b>				
<b>Leg. Body &amp; Bill #</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Assembly Bills</b>				
AB 590	Fox	Develops a VA-run transition assistance program for veterans back to civilian life, including services for military sexual trauma, vocational training, and education	Dead	Watch
AB 987	Maienschein	Bill is related to conservatorship hearings for the gravely disabled. Bill would require PG, or investigating officer, to petition the court to establish conservatorship if given a recommendation by a designated clinician. Under existing law, the decision to petition or not is left up to the discretion of the investigating officer.	Dead	Oppose
AB 1065	Holden	This bill would extend the notice of counties receiving Mentally Disordered Offenders (MDO) being released to treatment and community supervision from five days to up to 30 days. This will allow counties to prepare a treatment plan for these populations.	Held in Assembly appropriations - Dead	Support
AB 1264	Conway	Tactical Response Plan for Schools	In Senate, 1/27/14	Watch

AB 1265	Conway	Would extend mandatory treatment (AOT) under Laura's Law from 6 months to one year.	Died	Watch; to Dept for input
AB 1355	Maienschein	Bill adds to the "One Strike Sex Law" and the vulnerable victim enhancement law, by qualifying that crimes against victims with mental disorders or physical or developmental disabilities are to be included in the aforementioned laws. Would increase sentences for perpetrators who commit acts against such individuals under aforementioned laws.	Dead	Watch
AB 1455	Campos	Authorizes superintendent of a school district to refer a student victim of, or witness to, an act of bullying to school-based counseling and case management services.	Referred to Comm. on Ed, 1/23/14	
AB 1725	Maienschein	Conservatorship for gravely disabled: would allow that family members or interested person may petition court for conservatorship, includes substance abuse as a category for being considered gravely disabled.	Introduced, 2/20/14	Oppose
AB 1790	Dickinson	Would require county mental health plans to prioritize referrals pre- and post-adoption for specialty MH services that are permanency and adoption competent, and attempt to assure that there are an adequate number of providers to meet this need.	Introduced, 2/19/14	Watch

AB 1929	Chau	CalHFA - MHSA Funding: special needs housing for persons with mental illness. Counties may deposit MHSA funds with CalHFA for purposes of acquisition, development, refinancing and construction of housing for special needs mental health housing.	Introduced, 2/19/14	Watch
<b>Senate Bills</b>				
SB 833	Liu	Bill would allow inmates being released to voluntary re-entry facilities or treatment centers to request to stay up to 16 additional hours in jail facility under normal business hours resume and transportation to the re-entry program is available.	Referred to Comm. on P. Safety, 1/23/14	Support
SB 894	Corbett	Regs related to CCL suspension of a license for a facility	Referred to Comms. On Human S. & Jud. , 1/23/14	Watch
SB 1054	Steinberg	Mentally ill crime reduction grants: applications through the sherriffs departments, and to engage mental health partners. Would provide 50 mill of GF funding, and administered through Comm. Corrections and DHCS.	Introduced, 2/18/14	Support
<b>Other Legislation</b>				
<b>Leg. Body &amp; Bill #</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Assembly Bills</b>				



AB 175	Perez	Creates a trust fund to provide comprehensive preventative health care coverage for uncovered field and migratory workers and their families. Funds to be voluntarily collected from employers, philanthropic orgs, and private individuals; to be dispersed through community health program applications.	Dead	Watch
AB 264	Maienschein	Would allow CalWORKS temporary shelter assistance to be used for a maximum of 16 days total. Changes the current restriction, which states that temporary shelter assistance be provided for up to 16 <i>consecutive</i> days.	In Senate, 1/29/14	Support
AB 357	Pan	Renames the existing Healthy Families Advisory Board the Children's Health Advisory Board and makes the advisory board an independent, statewide body designated to provide a vision for children's health and provide recs to DHCS. 15-member body appointed by Governor, to include at least one MH expert; new members appointed only as vacancies occur on existing board.	In Senate, 1/29/14	Watch
AB 369	Pan	Relates to health care coverage. Provides continuity of care for individuals receiving tx for certain medical problems whose health plan was cancelled between 1/1/13 and 3/31/14 by a provider not contracted by current plan.	In Senate, 1/29/14	Watch
AB 1178	Bocanegra	This bill would establish the California Promise Neighborhoods (CPN) Initiative, to develop a system to identify 40 neighborhoods throughout the state. The State Dept of Education would be responsible for the application process and designation of the communities.	Dead	Watch

AB 1216	Campos	Expands areas for school suspension or expulsion for hate violence, to include family status, SES, and weight	Dead	Watch
AB 1502	Mullin	CalWORKS Family Unity Act: would extend exemptions for low-income relative caretakers of CalWORKS eligible children to allow them to receive assistance even if they cannot meet the WTW requirement.	Referred to Comm., 1/23/14	Watch
AB 1535	Bloom	Pharmacists: naloxone hydrochloride: would allow pharmacists to furnish prescriptions for naloxone hydrochloride.	Referred to Comm., 1/30/14	Watch (CMHDA Supports)
AB 1623	Atkins	Family Justice Centers: centers where victims of DV and other crimes can go and get coordinated services. Bill would create more stringent privacy protections (don't have to participate in criminal justice system for services, client consent for info. sharing among partners) and training.	Referred to Comm., 2/20/14	Watch
AB 1960	Perea	Criminal history information: related to DOJ maintaining criminal history information on individuals.	Introduced, 2/20/14	Watch
<b>Senate Bills</b>				

SB 166	Liu	Bill would require the Judicial Council to determine a minimum number of hours training to be completed as a requirement for defense attorneys representing juvenile delinquents.	Dead	Watch
SB 178	Correa	Would establish an advisory council, created by California superintendents, designed to provide recommendations to school districts regarding bullying prevention and resources.	Dead	Watch
SB 466	DeSaulnier	Bill would establish the California Institute for Criminal Justice Policy, to be housed by the UC system. The Institute would provide analyses of proposed criminal justice legislation including cost-benefits and research on evidence-based practices, with the goal of reducing recidivism.	In Assembly, 1/30/14	Watch
SB 593	Lieu	Establishes a social impact partnership pilot program to award at least three contracts to NGOs to provide services that are traditionally provided by the public sector. Contracts are outcome-based, and intended to encourage innovative solutions that produce improved outcomes and lower costs.	In Assembly, 1/30/14	Watch
SB 596	Yee	Establishes a school pilot program at four schools for multitiered interventions addressing behavioral, emotional, and academic needs aimed at prevention, and targeted and intensive interventions. To involve established partnerships with mental health agencies. No new funding attached to bill.	In Assembly, 1/28/14	Watch

SB 892	Ammiano & Skinner	Bill states that it is the "intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to address or modify the use of segregated housing in the state prison system." Addresses forthcoming legislation.	Referred to Comm. on RLS, 1/23/14	Watch
SB 909	Paveley	This bill would provide clear authority for social workers to provide medical consent for medical, dental, and mental health screenings for detained children in dependency system; within the first 72 hours.	Referred to Comm., 2/6/14	Watch
SB 970	Yee	Would define solitary confinement and put parameters on its use in juvenile facilities; to use only when all other options have been utilized and minor poses harm or threat.	Referred to Comm., 2/20/14	Watch